PIONEER STORY OF THE THOMAS MOULTON FAMILY

Thomas Moulton and his family, joined the church in England, during the time of Heber C. Kimball's missionary experiences in the 1850's. They prepared for their journey to Zion by subsisting largely on barley bread for about a year in order that they might save enough to buy clothing and pay their transportation to the Rocky Mountains. They set sail from Liverpool on 5 May 1856 as a family of nine, and while still in the Irish Channel another member was added to the family. A birth of a son. They used to hold Uncle Charles (the baby) up to the sun where they could see the shadow of the sun right through him he was so frail. Nobody expected him to live, but through the faith of his parents he recovered his health and would have been 75 years old had he lived but one more day, but he died on the 5th of May 1931.

The vessel from Liverpool made good progress the first week, but later through storms they drifted back. The ship caught on fire, but was soon extinquished, and the captain of the boat said the only reason it was saved was because of the Mormon people who were aboard the ship. After six weeks on the ocean they landed at New York where they arranged transportation to Florence, Nebraska. Having more clothing than they could find accomidation for, they left one large box of clothing on the boat for the Captain to give to whoever he thought best.

Owing to a shortage of handcarts they were delayed in Florence until the middle of July. The were with the Willie Company. Their family were allowed one covered cart and one open hand cart. The baby and the two younger girls road in the covered cart while Uncle Heber, than 8 years old walked behind the cart with a rope tied around him and tied to the back of the cart to keep him from straying away. My grandparents(Thomas Moulton and wife) pulled this cart. The two older girls and two older boys pulled the other cart.

At night our grandfather, Thomas Moulton, did the butchering for the whole company.

After several weeks traveling the Indians stampeeded the cattle and about 30 were lost. This made it necessary for a pack of flour to be put on the back of each hand-cart to lighten the load for the oxen that were recovered. The company had not taken enough provisions for the entire journey for they were planning on replenishing at Laramie, Wyoming; but on reaching there they could not get any so had to cut their rations. They lived on half rations for a while then they had to cut it to one forth of a pound to each adult.

When they reached the mountains winter weather set in and not having more than ¼ enough to eat deaths occurred practically every day. Coming over what they called the Rocky Ridge an old woman took Uncle Heber by the right hand and led him, to relieve his mother. By so doing she protected his right hand, but his left hand was frozen. The day he got his fingers frozen there were 15 frozen to death. That night they built a big bonfire to thaw out the ground so as to dig a grave large enough to bury them all together.

At Willow Creek the food was entirely exhausted, the children being given the last of the crumbs. That day they did not travel at all being too weak. The Captain had sent word to S.L.C. that they were running out of food about two weeks before and rode out ahead to meet the wagons in order to rush the food to camp. The food arrived, part being left there and the other part went on to a following company. Those who were too weak to walk were permitted to ride in wagons that had come to their rescue. An Uncle met the Moulton family at the foot of Little Mountain with a supply of bread and butter sandwiches and the children felt that it was the best food they had ever had in their lives.

They arrived at S.L.C. on Nov.9,1856. They stayed in S.L.C. for thred weeks after which they were sent to Provo. The oldest boy and girl were left in S.L.C. with their Uncle and shortly afterward Sarah, the girl, married a prosperous Blacksmith, John B. Hawkins.For 4 years the family of 8 who went to Provo lived in a one room adobe house after which they moved to Heber City.